

American Literature II

Class Time: 2:10-5:00 p.m. Thursday

Classroom: B103 Humanities and Social Sciences Building II

Instructor: Shu-Ling Chen

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Phone: 890-5309

Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Tuesday

Textbook:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature. Vol. II: 1865 to the Present. Shorter 10th ed.
New York/ London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2023.

Course Description:

American Literature II is designed to provide students with a general background in American literature from 1865 to the present. In this course, we will study selected masterpieces by 17 important American authors since 1865, helping students develop a greater understanding of American literature, society, history, and culture. We will discuss the chosen literary works carefully and critically, paying special attention to how they represent some of the most influential American literary themes and traditions. Students are required to give one group presentation. They also need to make three short individual presentations, answering questions related to the literary texts. They are expected to come to class prepared and participate in English in class discussions.

Course Schedule:

Week 1. 2/24/24: Introduction

Week 2. 2/29: “American Literature 1865-1914” (pp. 3-20); Mark Twain: “The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” (pp. 79-86)

Week 3. 3/7: Kate Chopin: “Desiree’s Baby” (pp. 415-420); Charlotte Perkins Gilman: “The Yellow Wall-paper” (pp. 479-493) (**Presentation 1**)

Week 4. 3/14: Edith Wharton: “The Lady’s Maid’s Bell” (pp. 494-510) (**Presentation 2**)

Week 5. 3/21: “Realism and Naturalism” (pp. 311-312); Stephen Crane: “The Open Boat” (pp. 565-583) (**Presentation 3**)

Week 6. 3/28: “American Literature 1914-1945” (pp. 619-644); Susan Glaspell: “Trifles” (pp. 682-693) (**Presentation 4**)

Week 7. 4/4: Holiday, No Class

Week 8. 4/11: William Carlos Williams: “The Young Housewife,” From *Spring and All*, “The Red Wheelbarrow,” and “This Is Just to Say” (pp. 718-723, 726); T. S. Eliot: “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (pp. 760-766) (**Presentation 5**)

Week 9. 4/18: **Midterm Examination**

Week 10. 4/25: William Faulkner: “Barn Burning” (pp. 1036-1039, 1046-1058) (**Presentation 6**)

Week 11. 5/2: “American Literature 1945 to the Present” (pp. 1105-1126); Elizabeth Bishop: “The Fish,” “In the Waiting Room,” and “One Art” (pp. 1141-1144, 1146-1148) (**Presentation 7**)

Week 12. 5/9: W. E. B. Du Bois: From *The Souls of Black Folk*: I. “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” (pp. 530-538); Ralph Ellison: “Battle Royal” (pp. 1156-1167) (**Presentation 8**)

Week 13. 5/16: James Baldwin: “Going to Meet the Man” (pp. 1260-1273) (**Presentation 9**)

Week 14. 5/23: Toni Morrison: “Recitatif” (pp. 1483-1498) (**Presentation 10**)

Week 15. 5/30: Gloria Anzaldua: “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” (pp. 1570-1579); Leslie Marmon Silko: “Lullaby” (pp. 1595-1602) (**Presentation 11**)

Week 16. 6/6: Jhumpa Lahiri: “Sexy” (pp. 1703-1719) (**Presentation 12**)

Week 17. 6/13: **Final Examination**

Grading Policy:

Attendance: 10 %

Participation: 15%

Group Presentation: 15%

Three Short Individual Presentations: 10%

Midterm Examination: 25%

Final Examination: 25%

Two Rules:

If you miss class over 3 times, you will get 0 for Attendance unless you have a good reason.

Please be on time. Being late 3 times equals 1 absence.